

REMARKS:

Claims 1, 4-14 and 16-23 are in the case and presented for consideration.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to define the hard material layer, the intermediate layer and the removal solution as call for by the examiner to conform to the specification at page 1 and 2 as identified by the examiner.

The examiner's rejection of claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph is therefore respectfully traversed in that claim 1 is believed properly supported by the specification.

Claim 1 has also been rejected as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being a cleaning method rather than a manufacturing method. Claim 1 is still believed correct, however, to define a method of manufacturing one type of hard metal substrate (one without the hard material layer and intermediate layer) from another type of hard metal substrate (the original one which includes both layers). This transition from one article of manufacture to another is believed fairly identified as a method of manufacturing.

One example of manufacturing the product without layers from the product with layers, would be when product having the layers and use for a certain purpose would to be used for a different purpose where the layers were not desired or advantageous. In that case, the specially design product with the hard material layer and its intermediate layer could be manufactured into the product with no layers, by practicing the method of the present invention.

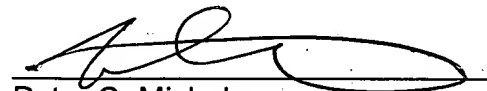
The remaining claims have been amended to be consistent with and dependent from claim 1.

The application and claims are all, therefore, believed to be in condition for

allowance and entry of this amendment and further favorable action is respectfully requested.

The examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned if any matters remain which can be treated by telephone interview in the interest of reaching a conclusion to the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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